

From: yves-gablin@ifrance.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:48am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

Microsoft has a habit of killing alternatives. I don't know if that's allowed or not in the USA. I guess it is; after all, it's their business. However, they do it with bad practices. One example is this article (<http://www.vcnet.com/bms/features/3d.html>), at the end of which it is clearly explained what is usually Microsoft's strategy, otherwise known as "embrace-extend-extinguish". Not only do they often lie, but they also silently work on crushing opposition at the same time (see <http://lindows.com> for example).

I also resent Microsoft's long-practiced FUD (the term means "Fear-Uncertainty-Doubt"): they tell lies to the public, so that we are (or should be) inclined to fear alternatives to Microsoft's products (Windows and others).

A simple example of this is the ever-changing way they talk about Linux, never telling the truth. One day it is nothing, the other day their biggest challenge, and they even dare to tell that Linux (a Unix clone) is not secure (!!), and they shamelessly tell that security lies in the usage of their Windows products! They say each version is more secure than the last, whereas last version (XP) "features" a security hole, such as has never been seen before in Windows: you **only** have to connect to the Internet (no need to read mail, connecting is enough) to endanger your PC!

Microsoft products, in my opinion, have the right to exist as any others. I even think that integrating Internet Explorer inside Windows, as they did, is acceptable, in the light of recent computer-desktop evolutions.

What I will never accept, though, and what I think Microsoft should be condemned for, is their way of exercising pressure, and of leveraging their presence on the PC desktops for ensuring their growing monopoly on more and more areas: first operating systems, next web browsers, then web languages (HTML

extensions, Javascript different from standard...), then multimedia formats and protocols (streaming protocols...), and now they try the next last two steps: servers (web, mail...) and internet applications (.NET).

Those issues are mostly from the point of view of a simple computer user, which I am.

But I am also an engineer in computer-science, and as such I stay on touch with news regarding MS-related issues. I won't enumerate all the problems Microsoft behaviour is causing, because Dan Kegel did it very well in his petition. That's why I suggest you read his petition (<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html>), to which I am a co signer.

Regards,

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